

163. (NEW) An optical transmission system as in claim 162, wherein the first and second amplifiers have a combined gain so that the optical signal is output from the second amplifier at a power level sufficient to be received by the receiver.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

STAAS & HALSEY

Paul I. Kravetz
Registration No. 35,230

Date: May 17, 1998